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A THRILLING WAR DRAMA

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THE HERO OF LEXINGTON

By R. B. HOWELL,
Late of Co. A., 3rd Michigan, V. I.
*Based on Real Incidents of the
War of the Rebellion.*

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To the Memory of Capt. John L. Herrington,
the Real Hero of Lexington, Mo., is this Drama
Affectionately Inscribed by the Author.

—o—

TMP92-009161



“The Hero of Lexington.”

—ACT FIRST.—

SCENE 1ST—Parlor—Mr. and Mrs. Wadsworth, their son Charles and daughters, Emma and Celia, seated.

Mr. W. (reading paper) The war seems inevitable, already the people of the South have declared that they will separate themselves from the North and form a Confederate Nation of their own, and to this end state after state has fallen in line and passed the Ordinance of Secession. (Lays down paper)

Charles: Father, will there be a call for men to defend the Union?

Mr. W.: Yes, my son, if war comes as it now seems it must. Men will be called upon to defend the Country and her Flag.

Charles: Then Father, in that event I shall respond, and like my noble ancestors stand by the Old Flag of our country

Mr. W.: My noble boy while I should deeply lament my loss, should you fall in the service of our country, yet I will not try to dampen your loyalty to one of the best governments under the sun.

Mrs. W.: I pray God, that this sacrifice of Sons and Husbands may not become necessary, but if it is His will then

the love of the country should be paramount to all, except our love to God the Father. (Charles some one is at the door) (Charles opens the door and as Carl enters Charles retires)

Carl: Coot efening frents I shoost come in to spraken aboud des var vat you dinks eh?

Mr W.: I think Carl from the present indications that we shall have trouble with the South.

Carl: Yas I dink so neider, und ven dem repel fellers coom oud und say dey vill no longer haf our Bresident to rule ofer dem, or our lechislatur to make der laws, den I tink dere vill be plenty droubles. und ven der Bresident say coom poys I dinks I cooms oud und help make demi repel fellers coom pack und stay by der olt Flag, und pehave derselves.

Charles: (enters excitedly) Father I have just heard that the President has issued a proclamation calling for 75.000 men to put down an armed Rebellion. (Exit Charles.) (Pat heard out-side) Whoa.

Carl: Yeely Moses, den I goes at vonce und makes mine-self a soldier, coot night friends. (Exit Carl—enter Pat at same time, running against each other.)

Pat: Begorra and phat ails the Dutchman that he goes out like a mad stheer? Ssure and he came near knocking me poipe down me troat, and if iver he does the loikes of it again I'll tachelh 'im a lesson or two.

Mr W. Pat you must excuse Carl, he had just heard that the President had issued a call for 75.000 men to put down an armed rebellion and he was hurrying away to enlist.

Pat: Begorra Carl, ye can knock me pipe down me troat and me teeth along wid it, if that is what ye were going for, and I say, Mr. Wadsworth, if ye could manage to drive the team yersel' I belave I would go along wid Carl and bad cess fo the Rebel phat cooms betwixt a Dutchman and an Irishman.

Mr. W.: Pat, if it is your desire to go and serve your country, we will spare you, and during your absence your family shall receive every month one-half as much as I have been paying you.

Pat: Thanks, Mr. Wadsworth, may the Howly Saints presarve ye, I'll go, but could ye give Biddy a place as sarvint wid yees while I am gone?

Mr. W.: Yes, Pat, she shall remain in our employ.

Pat: Thanks, Mr. Wadsworth, then here I go like the Dutchman.

Mr. W.: These men will make good soldiers. (Close

scene)(Mr. W. come on front of stage with hat and cane walk slowly across stage)[Mr. W.) Recruiting has already begun, and I have no doubt, when next I see Charles that he will be a soldier in the United States army, My only regret is that my age and infirmity prevents me from offering my services to my country.(passes off stage)(As Mr. W. passes off stage open on 3rd flat.)(Scene 2nd.)(Recruiting office, seated at table Capt. Judd and Lieut Smith(Enter Charles, Pat and Carl.

Charles: Is this Capt Judds recruiting office?

Lieut Smith: It is

Capt Judd: Gentlemen have you come to en-list in answer to the call of the President for volunteers?

Charles: I have.

Carl: So I too.

Pat: Thems me sentiments yer honor.

Capt Judd: Gentlemen have you considered well the step you are about to take? That you may be called upon to endure hard-ships, fatigue and perhaps death, or what is still worse become disabled for life?

Charles: I know there is many vicissitudes of war, but in offering my services I do so expecting to accept as a patriot what the fates of war may bring, ever bearing in mind that he who is afraid to offer his life in defence of his country is unworthy to be called a citizen.

Pat: Thims me sintiments.

Carl: So I too.

Lient Smith: Noble sentiments it is just such men we want

Capt Judd: You can sign the roll and I will assign you to Co A. my own company.(Carl signs first and steps into wing put on belt &c get gun ready to step in front of stage as scene closes)(the others sign and start to leave as Biddy appears.

Biddy: Ha Pat(Pat turns facing Biddy)sorry I ever saw this day, what will become of me and the children if ye go away to the war and get kilt entirely, sure Pat and ye would not leave me and the children widout a bite or a sup or even a parata to keep the wolf away from the door?

Pat: Whist Biddy me darlin, was it not mesilf as heard Mr. Wadsworth say that you should have every-thing what your heart desired, that he would give ye one half of me present wages and give ye a place as sarvint besidts, so be aisy Biddy an its meself will be back again.

Biddy: Pat if all what you have tolld me is thrue

thin I'm contint, good by Pat (scene closes, Carl comes on with gun' front of stage.)

Carl: Hoora, for der star spangled banner der place what is respect py efery pody only repels. Up mit der flac unt up mit der Repels too mit a rope. (open on scene 3rd in full stage.)

Scene 3rd—Drill—Lieut S New recruits fall in for drill (new recruits come on, Pat and Carl falling as they come on.)

Lieut S: What are you two doing?

Pat: Falling in for drill yer honor

Lieut S: Get up and stand along side of this man (pointing to Charles who is standing on stage. (Pat and Carl take their places.)

Lieut S—Shoulder arms (the squad put guns on their shoulders as awkward as possible) (Lieut takes one of the guns and illustrates.)

Lieut S: Shoulder arms; (The squad performs the movement correctly.) That is right; Now present arms. (Each recruit carries his gun and offers it to the officer) (Lieut then takes gun again and instructs them) (Steps to wing and calls) Company fall in. [The balance of company with Captain comes on stage)

Lieut S: Now recruits watch the movements of these men and do like them. [Drills a short time in manual, and then salutes Captain and says the company is prepared for drill, takes his place and Captain takes command fancy drill, (scene closes) [Chas comes in on one side of the stage, Alice from the other.

Charles: Good evening Alice I was just on my way to call on you.

Alice: Oh Charles this seems cruel, to see you and so many other young men leaving home to brave the dangers of camp and field, and while my heart would cry out at the thought of losing you, my pride of country shall bid you God speed, Yes my love of country shall not be excelled by my love for you; and may God restore you again to me when this now threatened dissolution of "Our Country" shall have been restored.

Charles: My dearest Alice you are a noble girl, and your patriotism shall inspire me to deeds of honor, and if I am permitted to return to you Alice it shall be with a record as a soldier that you shall be proud of.

Alice: I know that you will Charles and I shall daily pray that success may rest upon our army and victory perch upon her banners.

Charles: I know you will Alice and thank you for the assurance, but I must now leave you Alice and go and receive the congratulations of my parents and sisters, Bye Bye.

(wave hand and retire)(Alice still holds stage) places right hand over heart.)

Alice: Oh my heart: It seems as though it must break if Charles should never return to me, but "Our Country" calls and I will not let my feelings cause him to go in sadness (passes off stage on opposite side from where she entered) (open on home scene Father, Mother and two sisters.)

Scene 4th—Enter Charles in uniform)(all rise.)

Charles: I see I have taken you all by surprise; I am now a Soldier in the United States Army.

Celia: Oh Charlie! must you go to the war?

Mrs W.: Charles have you considered the step you have taken? of the hardships you may be called on to endure?

Charles: Yes, Mother, I realize that a soldier's life will not be all sunshine, or his pathway strewn with flowers.

Mr. W.: My noble boy, I am delighted to see you in this uniform, and to know that love of country is the cause: let your conduct as a soldier ever be such as to show that your love of country is paramount to all, except to Him who giveth governments and holdeth all nations in His hand.

Celia: Charles when do you have to leave us?

Charles: The day after to-morrow we leave for the seat of War, Sumpter has fallen and the loyal men of the North must teach those Traitors that their flush of victory now means only defeat in the end.

Emma: (Laying her head on Charles shoulder with Handkerchief to eyes.) Oh Charles it is too bad that you have to leave us so soon.

Charles: Sister do not feel that way, think of our dear old Flag being taken down and trailed through the streets of Charleston, through dust and filth and then say—shall I doff this uniform or not?

Emma: Go Charles you shall not hear your foolish sister say aught again if such terrible deeds are being enacted.

Charles: Not foolish, Sister mine, but spoken like the little patriot you are, but I must now extend to all of you an invitation to visit me at the Barracks to-morrow, and you girls

come prepared to give us a song as all the Company will be present.

Mr. W.: We will come Charles, and will call for Alice on the way. Have you seen her since you enlisted?

Charles: Yes Father, I have and she like you is willing to lay all on the altar of her country.

Mr. W.: Noble girl, during your absence Charles, she shall find in us true friends.

Charles: Thank you Father; good night, I will now try the realities of Soldier life by sleeping at the Barracks to-night. (all respond good night, Exit Charles) (scene closes. Pat comes on in front to hold stage.)

Pat: Faith an it takes a mon to be lively, to keep his gun movin in every direction, the Capt tould us, an only fur me light boots I wouldnt had a blessed toe left on me foot; sure an I can't see how Shoulder arrums and Order arrums an all thim other orders are going to kill Rebels, but never mind Pat will show thim some of his tactics when we get to the front, (Exit Pat) (as Pat goes off open full stage, Soldiers in Barracks smoking and talking, enter visiting party, Soldiers all in full line)

Scene 3rd—Enter Mr. W., wife and daughter, Alice in the wings.

Charles: Comrades these are my parents and sisters. (all salute)

Mr. W.: Young men I am glad to meet you, and as I look at you, and think of the thousands like you that will respond to the call of the President I feel assured that our nation is safe and that a dissolution of this Union can never be.

Mrs. W.: Young men, allow me to say a word to you, I know you will be true to your country, be true to yourselves also avoid as much as possible all the evils that may surround you, be men and God will give you victory (after Mrs. W. stops speaking, soldiers all start to leave stage) (enter at same time Quartette).

Charles: Hold on men, perhaps the visitors will give us a song (all call out song, Quartette then takes stage and sings one or two selections of Patriotic songs) (after song all soldiers except Charles exit, the quartette takes leave of Charles cheerfully and retire).

Mr. W.: Charles you have joined a noble company and I have no doubt when called upon for duty, that victory will follow in its path (lays hand on Charles arm) but what mean those chivrons on your arms? I thought you enlisted as a private.

Charles: I did, but am now on the line of promotion, and hope to rise higher ere I return.

Mr. W.: Be true and loyal my son, and though you rise no higher in the ranks you may come out a hero, but we must now leave you and return to our home. Farewell Charles and may God bless you, and bring you safely back to us. (let mother and sisters clasp hands with Charles and pass off stage with handkerchief to their eyes.) (Alice comes on as others pass off, Charles and her embrace and scene closes) (Carl comes on to hold stage.)

Carl: I shoost tells you dot olt mans speech makes me so goot feel dat I dinks I could go by der South und stock all tem repels py myself, for making such droubles, und ven I haf such a gal as dat uder feller to leaf pehint me, den I fights like der olt poy; I shoost tells you dot young man cooms oud a hero. (as Carl retires stage opens on 3rd, Capt. J. seated, Orderly enters with orders, Capt. reads to himself and says.)

Capt. J.: I have ordes which takes us to the front and probably into active service (turns toward wing and calls Orderly Sargent) order Co. to fall in. (as Capt. passes off stage open up 4th flat, Soldiers in line.)

Capt. J.: Attention Company A. Present Arms! (enter Colonel Pierce, salutes.)

Col. P. Shoulder Arms! Soldiers we are about to march to the scene of conflict, the sound of which now falls upon our ears (here should be personation of Rifles in distance) The country is watching us; loved ones at home are waiting for a report from us, let us send back to them the message that our Regiment under fire for the first time, achieved honors, worthy of veterans. Let every man stand to his post and do his duty and a Nation shall boast of our achievements. Officers take charge of your companies and set them examples worthy of imitation. (Capt. marches Co off one side stage,) Rebel Soldiers come on slowly on opposite side, a volley is fired from Union line in wings, 2 or 3 Rebels fall, then the two sides come on firing, advancing and retreating, just as order charge Capt. J. and Lieut. S. and one or two others fall on stage near center, the two forces then lock bayonets in upper charge, the 4th flat is opened showing Goddess of Liberty with drawn sword—Tableaux—Red fire.

—ACT SECOND.—

Scene 1st—(Open on 3rd flat) (Company discovered at

stack arms, Charles speaking.)

Charles: Comrades this is the close of an eventful day, our valiant Capt. has fallen, our Lieutenants are disabled and all our non-commisioned officers above me are either killed or disabled, and now that the command of the company falls on me, what is your will? for I feel incompetent for the position, perhaps an officer from some other company can be supplied us.

Carl: Poys we wants no mens from udder companies to poss us und I wat you call it? moof dot we make Sarg't. Wadsworth our captian unt dot we done all tings wot he told us.

Pat: Its mesilf as would sicond that motion, an I see by the looks of all the Bys that the same is the wishes of them all, an me hero, beginn pardon I mane Lieu't, we will follow him, wherever ye lade us, an' sorry the fate of any spalpeen that attimpts to harm ye, aither be word or dade. Comrades all in favor of the motion say Aye. Ah it is as I thought, as they say in Parlament, it is unannymous.

Charles: Comrades you inspire me with new zeal, I thank you and will do all in my power to merit the honor bestowed on me, but my heart is SAD on account of the great sacrifice we have been called on to make to-day[enter Col. P.] [all salute]

Col. P.: Sargeant Wadsworth, the command of Co. A. will devolve on you until further orders and I desire all you men to render the same obedience to him that you did to your lamented Captain.

Pat.: Sure yer honor we just voted him our Capt.

Col. P.: He will hold that position until further orders [as Col. starts out.]

Pat.: Sure an may the orderd have a long way to thravel, and be lost by the way, or sunk in the say.[scene closes] [Chas. comes on front, seats himself smoking cigar, after a minute or two Orderly enters, salutes and hands Charles order and retires.

[Charles reads) Sargeant Wadsworth, the General commanding has called on me to select some meritorious non-commisioned officer to take charge of a company of reliable men to report at once for active service, and has sent to me a commission of 1st. Lieutenant with blank space to insert such names as I shall select, I ask of you to accept this honor, I do this from a sense of duty to you and to our country, please report at once and let me know your decision.

Charles: I will report at once and learn the nature of this order. (exit)

Scene 3rd—(open on 3rd flat) (Col. P. discovered seated) (enter Charles saluting.)

Col. P. Be seated Sergeant, what is your decision in the matter referred to in my letter to you?

Charles: Colonel, you confer on me an honor I will be proud of, and place me under a debt of gratitude I fear I will never be able to repay.

Col. P. It is easily repaid by devotion to your country.

Charles: thanks Col. I accept and am ready to report for duty. But Col. will I be permitted to retain my present company?

Col. P. You have permission to select 50 men from my Regt. who will not fear to face any danger. such is the General's order, prepare your company and report to me. (Charles salutes and starts to retire.)

Col. P. Hold Sarg't. I will insert your name in this commission (writes and hands to Chas.) there Lieut. go and select your company (exit Charles.)

Col. P. That man is destined to become a "Hero" I know not what duty he may be called upon to perform, but be it what it may, it will be done well. (Col. holds stage writing; Chas. is heard in 4th flat,

Halt, front, right dress, front, order arms, parade, rest! (Chas. enters Col's. room.)

Chas. Colonel, my company is full and here are their names for your approval.

Col. P. A noble band. I will now read the general's orders. (Reads.) "As soon as this company is organized they will proceed at once to Kansas City, where they will be fully equipped and mounted. Owing to the condition of affairs at that place, it has become necessary to put the place under martial law. Send only true men who will deal with treason as its merits demand. Further orders will await them there. Report by wire the name of the officer you have selected. Yours, J. C. Fremont." I have already sent your name to the General. Lieutenant, bring your company to my quarters.

Chas. My company is already at your door. I will go and prepare them. (Exit Chas. Colonel calls orderly to remove furniture. As Chas. says "present arms," open screens on 4th flat.)

Col. P. Shoulder arms! Soldiers, you are a favored company and you have for a leader one who will be all you can desire. Be true soldiers, obedient to his commands, and honor will follow all your movements. Farewell, to all of you, and I shall be disappointed if I do not hear good reports from you. (All respond, farewell. Col. takes Lieut's. hand and company march around them while tableau light burns.) Tableau.

—ACT THIRD.—

Scene 1st.—(Opens on 1st flat. When curtain rises Lieut. is discovered, seated, smoking cigar. Enter Pat.

Pat. (Salutes.) Faix, Captain,—beg yer pardin, I mane Lieutenant—we have just received the finest lot of horses that iver carried a soldier, and I have selected the foinest of them all for yerself.

Chas. What is he like, Pat; what color, and is he nice and slick?

Pat. Yes, yer Honor; he is so fat that ye can count all his ribs, and so smooth that his hair all stands the other way. Oh, but he's a beauty, and if thim bloomin' thraitors want to have a look at men that are thrue to the Union jist let them come over and—(enter orderly; salutes and hands Lieut. a message.)

Chas. reads: "Headquarters, Dept. Missouri. Lieut Wadsworth; Information has reached me by way of a rebel deserter that Col. White, of Lexington, is holding secret correspondence with rebel officers for the purpose of arranging for the surrender of his post, and that already the enemy is marching against him. Ride with all speed with your company, and if such is the case circumvent them if you can. Let me know as early as possible whether the rumor is true, as this man, claiming to be a deserter, may only be a spy. But should his report be true, and the evidence warrants, arrest the Colonel regardless of rank, and send him under guard to me. J. C. Fremont."

Scene 2nd.—Open on third flat; Col. White seated; soldiers retire to 4th flat and lie down; Lieut. enters Col. W.'s quarters.

Chas. I am Lieut. Wadsworth, provost marshal of Kansas City. Do I address Col. White?

Col. W. I am Col. White; be seated Lieutenant.

Chas. Thanks, Colonel. (takes seat) I hear that the enemy is marching against you, and I have been ordered to your assistance. I bring a full company and report for duty.

Col. W. Lieutenant, I am ever so grateful to you, but I assure you that the rumor is false. I have videttes out for twen-

ty miles and hear from them every day, and I assure you there was no signs of an enemy at the last report. Lieutenant, send your men to the Barracks for the night and sleep soundly for no danger threatens. But how did this rumor reach you?

Chas. Gen. Fremont has just picked up a man claiming to be a rebel deserter and it was from him the rumor started.

Col. W. He must be a spy, and trying to play a part.

Chas. Probably, so I will now retire. (Exit Chas.)

Col. W. (alone.) Zounds! How have my movements been betrayed? It must be as he said by some deserter; but I can now surrender with more honor, as I will now have one more company to surrender as prisoners of war: I will then receive my commission as General in the Confederate Army, and will then teach General Fremont that I am not to be trifled with. I must send a courier to their lines at once, as the blow must be struck to-night.

Scene 3rd.—Opens on 4th flat; soldiers sleeping; firing heard. Col. W. steps on stage waving white flag. Chas. and men spring up and find rebels on both sides].

Chas. Comrades, we are betrayed! See that arch-traitor! Vile traitor, this is your last act on earth; die traitor dog that thou art, and no longer disgrace the uniform you wear. (fires; Col. falls.) Soldiers, follow me. Forward! (Fight,—Tableau.

— ACT FOURTH. —

Scene 1st—1st and 2nd flat, Kansas City. Chas. and company.

Chas. Comrades, I am proud of your valor and I congratulate you on your escape unharmed. We left at least twenty of the enemy on the field, that arch-traitor dead and lost not a man. I have dispatched a full account of the affair to the General and have just received his answer. I will read it to you. (Reads.) "Headquarters, Department of Missouri; Lieutenant Wadsworth: Your account of the affair at Lexington has reached me, and for the valor of yourself and men in cutting your way through the enemy I herewith commission you Captain; and for your noble deed in shooting the traitor, Colonel White, I give you the noble company who followed you, with full permission to go anywhere in this department, and do what you deem best for the interests of our Government. I hereby commission your command, the First Missouri Independent Rangers. Keep me posted on all of your movements and if you need assistance, your call shall be promptly responded to. By order of General J. C.

Fremont." Comrades, we are now commissioned "Free Rangers," Let us strike deadly blows at secession and teach Southern chivalry that treason will not be tolerated. And again, I congratulate you.

Pat. Lieutenant—beg pardon, I mean Captain—I think its yerself as needs the congratulations, for divil the mother's son of us would have run through that shate of fire and lead, had we not seen our gallant. leader at the front. An' who but yersel could have given that ould thraitor sich a fair thrial an' executed the sentence wid such coolness and dispatch. Sure the mane rascal wanted us all entrapped entirely. But hoora! boys, we can now have a chance to look after them spaldeen bushwhackers phwat thried to shoot a poor ould Irish gentleman like me, when he was only going over to the ould sthile house to see if he could find a drap of something to trate his captain wid.

Chas. Yes, Pat, we wil look after them and try to teach them better manners; but you may all retire until roll call. (Close scene. Biddy holds stage with letter from Pat.

Biddy. (Reads.) In camp near Kansas City, Jooly 62. Dear Biddy: Having a little p'ace and quietness, I sit down to let ye know how we are getting along. indade we are not getting along at all, at all; we can get nothing to ate, (Biddy wipes her eyes with her apron and says: "Poor Pat.") an, no wine to drink but whisky(poor Pat; I wish I could help him drink that) an' every thing is confusion and danger. Even as we sit down to ate we have to kape both hands armed. While I write this I hold a pistol in aich hand and a sword in the other; in fact, there is such goings on here that everything is at a standstill. Only last week we got word that the Rebs. were advancing under Frinch colors; but they had no colors at all. only a flag. They had no guns except cutlashes and swords, and as we had plenty of muskets we soon put them all to the sword. Not a soul of them escaped except a few who were drownded in a pond nearby, and shortly, nothing could be heard but silence. I should have answered your letter a fortnight ago only I jist resaved it till to-day. I have only time to add that I am in great haste. Pat Donovan.—P. S. If this don't reach you, write and let me know. Pat" Well, I must go and write the poor mon a letther. (Exit Biddy. Scene 2.—Soldiers in line.

Chas. Seargeant call the roll, (Some one calls: Capt.

Wadsworth, Seartg. Eagen, Seartg. Donovan. (Seartg. Donovan —no answer.

Chas. Perhaps he has gone over to the old still house. He had better be careful, for bushwhackers are plentiful about here. (Commotion outside in wings; Pat is heard.

Pat. Get along here ye bloody spalpeens, and perhaps the Captain will give ye all a furlough for a thrip to purgatory. (Enters with three men, tied, their guns on his shoulder.

Chas. Hello, Pat, what have you there?

Pat. Three bloody bushwhackers, yer Honor. Arnn't they beauties?

Chas. Pat, tell us how you have them here. Surely three such fellows as they, ought to get away with you.

Pat. Sure, Captain, 'an I surrounded them an' took advantage of them, and before they knew it I had them tied, hand and fut.

Chas. Pat, tell us how you managed it.

Pat. Well, then, It's meself that was goin' over to the ould still house when be chance I diskivered these three rascals comin' along the road. I said to meself, "Now, Pat, let's see phat ye can do." So I jumped into the bush and when they got jist forinst me, I jumped ont wid me gun an' I says: "Lie down yer arrums or fifty bullets will go through your hearts this minute." They lay down their guns and I then called out. "B'ys kape them covered till I tie 'em," an' I then went up to them an' tied them as ye see, an' then took up their guns, an' me own and made them come along to see me Captain.

Chas. Pat, you are a noble fellow, and I will reccommend you for promotion.

Pat. Thanks, Captain, jist recommend me for General, or l'ave me Pat Donovan, as I am.

Chas. All right, Pat. Take charge of your prisoners and I will see them later. (Pat picks up guns and calls to prisoners.

Pat. Come on ye spalpeens. (Exit Pat and prisoners. Scene closes; some good solo, or lightning drill to hold stage. Scene 3rd.—Full Stage, soldiers resting at ease. Enter orderly with message, salutes, hands Captain message and retires.

Chas. (Reads.) "Captain Wadsworth: I am exceedingly sorry to have to announce to you an order from the War Department at Washington, but although I have tried every

means to have the order revoked, it still stands, and as a soldier it is my duty to obey. Yourself and company have been ordered, through me, to report at an early day to General Stoneman, in the Army of the Potomac. And now thanking you for the great service you have rendered this department, I ask of you to obey this order and report to General Stoneman with your company at an early a day as posslble. Yours truly, J. C. Freinont."

Chas. Soldiers, we have been ordered to leave this department and report to General Stoneman, in the Army of the Potomac, but before leaving this department we will parole the bushwhacker that we arrested for the fourth time this morning. Sargeant Donovan, bring John Thomas out. (Exit Pat and brings prisoner in with hands tied; Chas reads death sentence; prisoner standing.

Chas. (Reads.) John Thomas, for the fourth time you have been arrested. Twice we paroled you on your honor and once on your oath, and yet this morning you was caught in the act of assassinating one of our number. Yet, Instead of resorting to Lynch law, you have been given a fair and impartial trial, and have been found guilty. Since then, you have boasted of the number of Union men you have killed. You have been sentenced to death and I have just received from the General the confirmation of the sentence; and while it is a painful duty, it is necessary that bushwhackers should know that their work is cold blooded murder, and that no mercy hereafter wil be extended to them. (Have prisoner kneel; 6 of the company, as Captain motions, steps to left side of stage in front of prisoner and the order is given by Chas. At command, "aim," 4th flat opens.

Chas. Ready, aim, fire! (Tableau—red light. Goddess of libery omitted in this tableau.

ACT FIFTH.

On Potomac.

Scene 1st,—Open on third flat; Gen. Stoneman seated; enter Chas.

Chas. I am Captain Wadsworth. " have I the honor of addressing General Stoneman?

Gen. S. I am General Stoneman, and I flatter myself

that I have the honor of welcoming the Hero of Lexington. Welcome, Captain, welcome.

Chas. General, I was at Lexington, b-t I my duty as a soldier. I am ordered to report to you for duty, and I am proud to say that I bring fifty as brave men as ever faced a foe.

Gen. S. Captain, I am aware of that, and it was only after the most extreme efforts that I got you transferred to my command. I again extend you welcome, (gives hand) and shall, so far as in my power, give you the same freedom you have been accustomed to and use you principally as scouts.

Chas. Thanks, General. I shall await with pleasure any orders from you. (Close screen in front of Stoneman, leaving 1st and 2nd flats open. Enter Chas. and company. As Chas. seats himself let company march on front of stage. Silent drill—front to audience; stand at "shoulder arms;" with left hand raise caps at same time; replace them and go through manual of arms: Present, shoulder, order, shoulder, in single file, right face, file right, march, file right. Come in front of captain, and pass around him; countermarch in rear of him, halt, front, order arms, parade rest. All this should be done in perfect order and in silence.—Enter orderly with orders.

Chas. (Reads.) "Captain Wadsworth; I desire to see you at once. Stoneman."

Chas. I will go at once. "Attention, company! Shoulder arms! Right face! (single file) Countermarch by file left, march! (Pass into wings and halts. Stage opens on Gen. S. Enter Chas; salutes

Chas. General, I am at your service.

Gen. S. I have service for you that is of a very dangerous nature but I know I can rely on you, and will not insult your past history by asking if you will undertake it.

Chas. War in any form is full of danger. General, please make known your wishes.

Gen. S. You will take your company and go to the Quartermaster who will supply you with Rebel uniforms, (any old clothes, with slouch hats will do) put them on and pass through our lines by the way of Culpepper. Go as near Richmond as possible, learn the roads, the position of the enemy's works as near as possible and then report to me thus, opening up the way for a general cavalry movement. rely on your own strategy to accomplish your mission and bring

you safely back.

Chas. General, when shall I start?

Gen. S. At dusk to-night arrangements will be made with the out-posts to pass you through our lines.

Chas. Thank you, General; You may expect a good report. (Close scene back of first flat. If person can be found for lightning drill, let him hold stage; if not, have camp scene. Scene 2nd.—Turn down lights. Soldiers pass around quickly to 4th flat at first bell; at second bell open full stage. Soldiers in 4th flat; Chas speaking:

Chas. Soldiers, our raid has been a successful one, but again, as at Lexington, we are surrounded by the enemy and our only hope is, as there, to cut our way through. Remember we are in Rebel uniform and can expect no mercy from them. Let us trust in God and our arms and we will escape. We must leave our horses and make our way on foot. Keep well together and follow me. (Pistol fight on part of Union. pistols or muskets on part of Rebels. as red light starts, Chas. falls, Carl runs to him; Rebel attempts to stab Carl with sword, Chas. shoots Rebel. Curtain falls.

ACT SIXTH.

Scene 1st.—Full stage, Hospital scene. Cot on third flat; Chas. lying on cot, Alice seated by his side.

Alice. Chas, how do you feel to-day?

Chas. Alice, I think I am getting stronger, but it is hard to lie here when I ought to be with my men.

Alice. Charles, I heard from home to-day and they are anxiously waiting for you to recover sufficiently to come home on furlough. But here comes the General to see you. (Alice rises and steps back to a seat near the wings. Enter Gen. S.

Gen. S. Capt. Wadsworth, (extending hand) I am glad to meet you again. The Surgeon informed me that you was fast recovering and gave me permission to call on you. I must congratulate you on the noble achievements of yourself and men in your late raid, although I regret your misfortune. Your journal was so complete that it enabled my corps to ride right into the fortifications of Richmond and to disable a large number of their guns. It was hazardous on your part and it seems miraculous that you escaped with all your men. (Notices Alice.) But who have we here? Her gentle nursing is undoubtedly

the cause of your rapid recovery and I would thank the lady for what she has done for you.

Chas. (calls) Alice! (Alice steps to his side.) General Stoneman, allow me to present Miss Alice Randall, my affianced bride, and as one who loves her country with all the devotion of a soldier.

Gen. S. Miss Randall, (takes her hand) allow me to congratulate you, as being the affianced bride of one of the most daring and heroic men in the United States Army, and to thank you for your gentle nursing.

Alice. Thanks, General, I believe Charles is all you claim for him, basing my opinion on history, but undoubtedly many others would have done as much under similar circumstances.

Chas. Let flattery cease, and tell me, General, how soon will I be able to report for duty?

Gen. S. Just as soon, Captain, as you are able to enter upon the duties of home life. The war is about over and you will not be called upon as a soldier during the few days Rebellion has to live. Your achievements in and about Lexington have been eclipsed by your later ones, in and about Richmond, and again, ere leaving you, I extend my thanks and pronounce you a "Hero," (Exit Gen. S.

Alice. Oh, Charles! I am so glad you can return home with me. So long as there was a probability of your services being needed by our country, I was willing to risk all, but from what the General says, friends will soon be all united.

Chas. Not all, Alice.

Alice. No, alas, not all. (Scene closes, Pat comes on from one side, Carl from the other; Meet.

Pat. Carl, I am glad to meet ye. I have some fine news for ye. I found the ould gal and the childer all well an' they have been havin' splendid times since I've been gone, and I was jist afther hearing that our Captain was home an' was goin' to call on him.

Carl. Shoost vat I coom dis vay for, so coom on, unt ve vill go by der Gaptain unt see how he vas. (As they leave, stage opens on home again. Scene. 2nd—Mr. W., Mrs. W. and two

girls.

Mrs. W. I think we should hear how Charles is to-day. It has been several days since Alice wrote he was fast recovering.

Mr. W. Noble girl. It is to her kind care we owe the life of our darling boy.

Chas. (Speaking at the door while Alice enters) Yes, kind parents, only for ner gentle care, I should not be here; or so soon, at least. (Salutations.)

Mrs. W. Thank God! the was is ended and Charles is restored to us.

Chas. Rather let us thank him for the restoration of the Union, for that is what we risked our lives for.

Mrs. W. Yes, let us thank Him for the restoration of the Union and of friends. But while we rejoice let us also sympathize with those whose friends lie in a distant state, and ever stand ready to relieve the maimed heroes of our country, and the widows and orphans of our fallen ones. (Door opens, enter Carl.

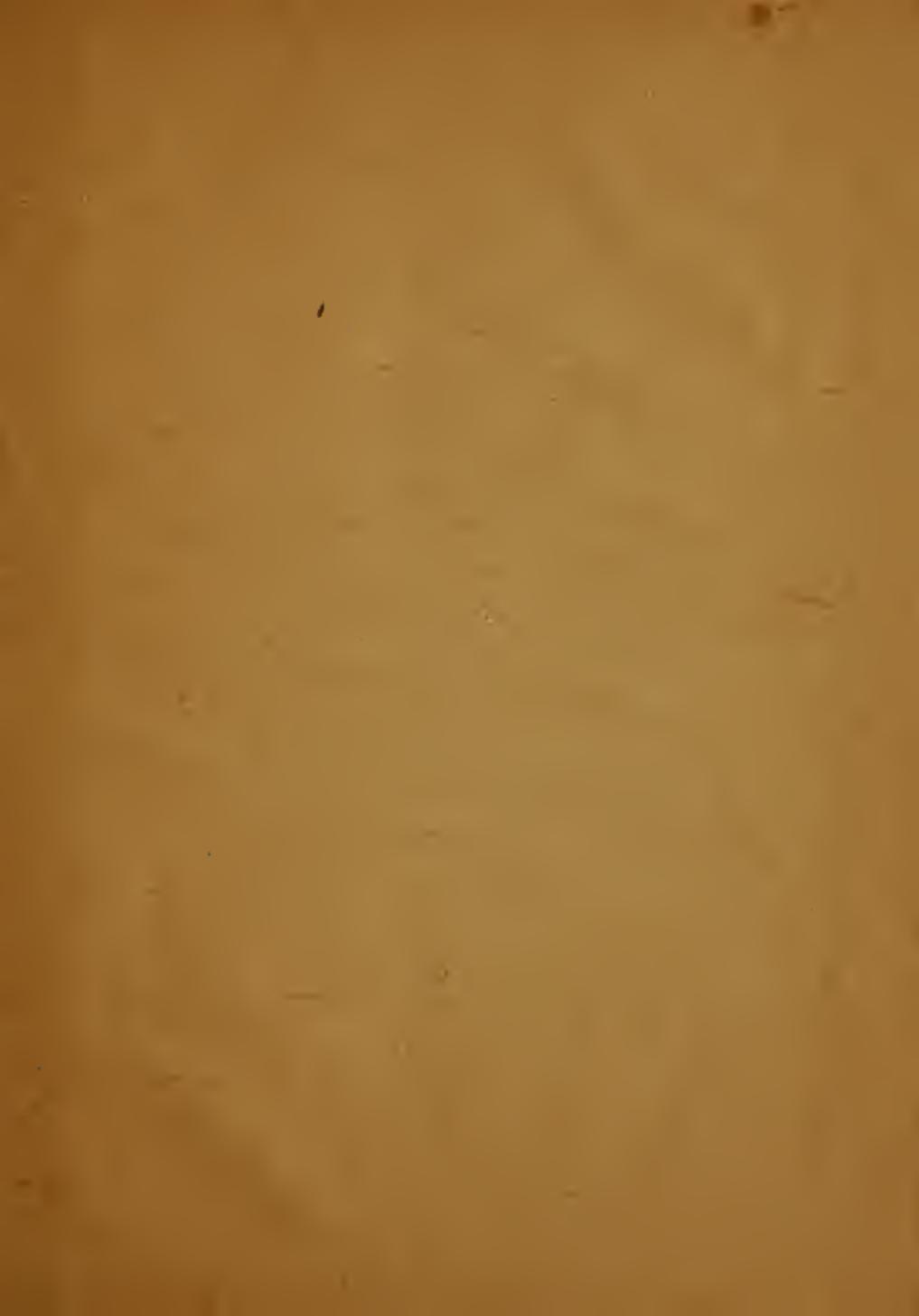
Carl. Hoora! How you all vas. I yoost coom py to see der Gabtain unt to tank him for de vay he made dot Repel led loose from me, ven he vas yoost aboud to stick his pig sheese knife in me. Mine Gott! I t'ought I vas a goner, ven pop goes der Gaptain's pistol und off rolls der Repel.

Chas. That's all right, Carl. (Enter Pat.)

Pat. Sure, an' it's mesels wud niver have seen Biddy an' the childer again only for me Captain.

Chas. Say no more about it, boys, but stay and see my happiness made complete. Carl, you go and bring a Chaplain Pat, you go for Biddy; and you and I Alice, will go and prepare ourselves for the happy event.

Carl. Yoost you folks sing somedings, und I go py der chaplain's. (Exit Pat, Carl, Chas. and Alice. Quartette holds stage with two selections. At 1st bell quartette step two on each side of stage; at 2nd bell screen opens full stage. Wedding scene; tableau, "Hopes Realized"—Goddess of Liberty holding wreath over Charles' head. As red fire is lighted, Carl steps forward, pointing at Charles and says "DER HERO OF LEXINGTON."



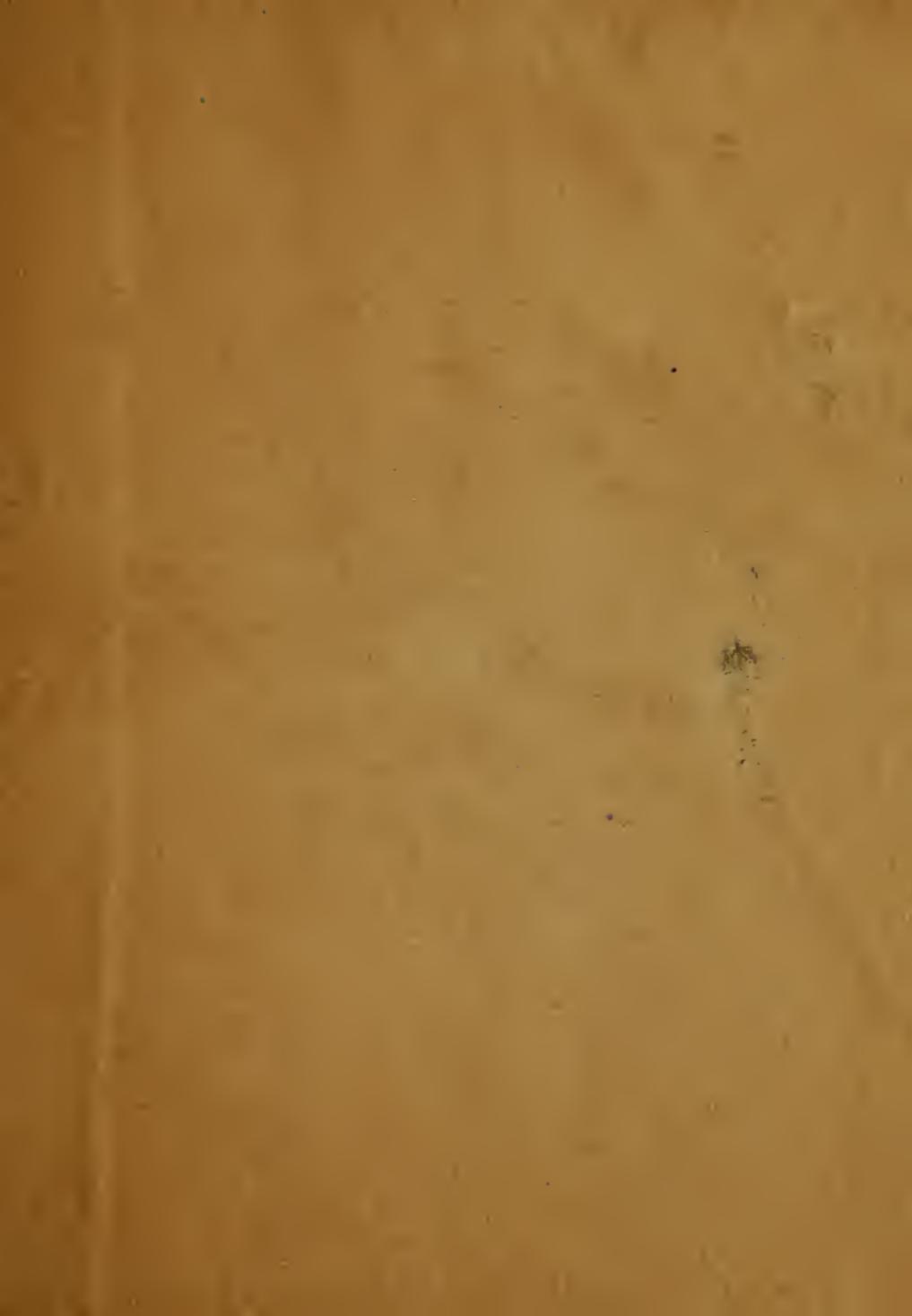


CAST OF CHARACTERS.

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| Mr. Wadsworth..... | An Old Man. |
| Mrs. Wadsworth..... | An Old Lady. |
| Emma and Celia Wadsworth..... | The Daughters. |
| CHARLIE WADSWORTH..... | THE HERO. |
| ALICE RANDALL..... | THE HEROINE. |
| Colonel Pierce..... | A War Officer. |
| Captain Judd..... |ditto. |
| Lieutenant Smith..... |ditto. |
| Pat Donovan..... | An Irishman. |
| Carl Schmitt..... | A Dutchman. |
| Biddy Donovan..... | An Irish Lady. |
| General Stoneman..... | Cavalry Commander. |
| Colonel White..... | A Traitor. |







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